

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes

August 15, 2003

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, August 15, 2003, from 10:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Thomas J. Felts; Robyn L. Moberly; Michael P. Scopelitis; Richard G. Striegel and Daniel F. Donahue, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. Committee members voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from July 18, 2003 and asked Jeffrey Bercovitz to survey other committee members for their vote to approve.
4. ADR Fund in Domestic Relations cases .
 - a. Judge Donahue distributed draft standards, guideline and annual report prepared in advance with Judge Felts to implement HEA 1034. He explained Lilia Judson, Executive Director, Division of State Court Administration requested this information at the previous meeting of the committee. Committee members reviewed the letter from Justice Dickson distributed at the last meeting and an email from Lilia Judson for consideration. Members of the committee made revisions and approved the standards, guidelines and annual report. They agreed to circulate it to committee members to get their vote on approval.
 - b. Judge Felts agreed to take the standards, guidelines and annual report to Judge Boyer and Judge Sims, chair of the ADR and Juvenile Justice Improvement Committees respectively for their review.
 - c. Committee members agreed to give the standard and guideline to Lilia Judson, State Court Administrator's Office. They agreed to ask Ron Miller to review the portion for the Annual Report, for gathering statistics on programs from HEA 1034, in order to gather the information in a similar manner as his office does now and to indicate any concerns.
5. Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee.
 - a. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed a copy of a letter from Bruce M. Pennamped, member of the Indiana Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee dated August 5, 2003 and a copy of IC 33-2.1-10-1 which created the committee.
 - b. Committee members agreed to explore the substitution of "parenting time" for "visitation" in the Indiana Code with the Advisory Committee.
6. FSSA: Child Support Bureau. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed a memorandum dated July 28, 2003 from Karla A. Mantia, Deputy Director, Child Support Bureau, FSSA concerning the timely entering of child support orders by clerks. These orders must be immediately entered under state law – the clerk should not wait until the first payment is made. Committee members recommended the memorandum should be distributed to judges at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference and mentioned briefly by Jane during her remarks.
7. Child Support Guidelines Draft. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed a copy of a memorandum distributed to the Supreme Court of Indiana from the Indiana Child Support Alliance concerning the proposed child support guidelines. Judge Donahue agreed to prepare a response to the letter.

8. Education.

- a. Committee members agreed the session at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference on Thursday, September 11 would be divided into two portions: (1) a review of the new legislation permitting the use of ADR in domestic relations cases with Judge Felts and Judge Harper of 45 minutes and (2) a review of the draft Indiana Child Support Guidelines with a presentation by Judge Moberly and Judge Scopelitis of one hour and 15 minutes. Members of the committee asked the Judicial Center to distribute the final draft of the Child Support Guidelines, separate Parenting Time table, five blank Parenting Time worksheets, and five blank Basic Obligation Worksheets. Judge Scopelitis agreed to prepare sample problems by August 29.
- b. Committee members registered for the Domestic Relations Workshop on November 13-14 in Indianapolis.

9. Next meeting dates. The members of the committee agreed to meet again on Friday, October 17, 2003, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center; Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 13-14, 2003 for an all day Judicial Center Seminar on Domestic Relations and hold no Nov. 2003 mtg.; January 23, 2004 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center (Note: This is 4th Friday!) and February 20, 2004, March 19, 2004, April 16, 2004, May 21, 2004, July 16, 2004 and August 20, 2004, all from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law